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2 PENDING SESSIONS OF JEE (MAINS) SLATED FOR JULY, AUG

April and May sessions of the exams postponed due to second wave will be held from July 20 to July 25, and July 27 to Aug 2

CANDIDATES TO GET CHOICE OF CENTRE

The Union education ministry on Monday said the National Testing Agency would start inviting applications from July 6 to July 8 for the July 20-25 session. Application window for July 27-Aug 2 session would be open from July 9-12. Those who had registered earlier can now change their centres, whose numbers have been raised to ensure Covid-appropriate behaviour

THREE MORE ATTEMPTS TO IMPROVE SCORE

- The NTA divided the test into four sessions starting this year. "Students will now get multiple chances to improve their score. If a student did not perform well in one attempt, he/she can attempt it three more times a year," the education ministry said
- The results of the two editions would be announced in August

11,77,226

CANDIDATES HAVE APPEARED IN THE FIRST TWO SESSIONS

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Loaded signals for Cabinet expansion today

Union minister Thawar Chand Gehlot dropped; Scindia likely to make the cut; new Ministry of Cooperatives created

MANISH ANAND @ New Delhi

DECKS have been cleared for the expansion of the council of ministers led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, with the government on Tuesday unveiling a new Ministry of Cooperatives along with the appointment of Union minister Thawar Chand Gehlot as Karnataka Governor.

The Prime Minister's Office has been individually calling the selected candidates to join the council of ministers over phone, with some already reaching the national capital on Tuesday.

Gehlot has been suitably accommodated as he was the Scheduled Caste face of the NDA. After a back and forth parleys, a grumbling JD (U) appears to have decided to join the government. The JD (U) was earlier seeking parity with the BJP's Bihar representation in the Union ministers by insisting on two Cabinet and two MoS berths.

The other Bihar element in the ministry is expected to be Pashupati Paras, who captured the LJP from under the nose of Chirag Paswan. Late Tuesday evening, the government informed that it has created the new ministry to strengthen the co-op movement. The NDA government had earlier created the Ministry of Jal Shakti. "This ministry will provide a separate administrative, legal and policy framework for strengthening the cooperative movement in the country," a government statement said. The creation of the new ministry is in line with the budget announcement made by the the finance minister, it added. P9

NEW GOVERNORS

Name	State
Thawar Chand Gehlot	Karnataka
Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel	Madhya Pradesh
Hari Babu Kambhampati	Mizoram
Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar	Himachal Pradesh
Satyadev Narayan Arya	Tripura
Ramesh Bais	Jharkhand
P S Sreedharan Pillai	Goa
Bandaru Dattatreya	Haryana

Thawar Chand replaces Vala as K'taka Governor

Bengaluru: Amid buzz around cabinet reshuffle, Union minister Thawar Chand Gehlot was on Tuesday named Governor of Karnataka, replacing Vajubhai Vala. P3

daCunha/AB/749

TWITTER VS UP POLICE

Impotent can't be accused of rape: HC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE Karnataka High Court on Tuesday lambasted Uttar Pradesh police over their insistence on Twitter India Managing Director **Manish Maheshwari** appearing before them, without affirming his links to the case filed by the Loni border police in Ghaziabad, UP, pertaining to a video that allegedly promoted communal disharmony.

"If there is an allegation under Section 376 of IPC (punishment for rape), potency is important. You can't make allegations against the impotent. Have you come to the conclusion that Twitter India is capable of controlling the doctored video which was uploaded on the platform of Twitter Inc, a US-based firm," the High Court asked the UP police.

This was one of a series of questions posed by the High Court to the counsel of UP police, while making oral observations during the hearing of a petition filed by Maheshwari, who questioned the notice issued by the UP police to appear before them.

Justice G Narendra asked the UP police counsel what were the allegations against Twitter India. "How does the complainant connect Twitter India with the crime registered? There must be some allegations and basis for registering the complaint. Don't bring IT Rules which are not applicable here," the judge said.

The advocate for UP police, P Prasanna Kumar, said it is a matter under investigation and that was why the notice was issued to Maheshwari to appear before the UP police.

CONTINUED ON: P5

India may bring back nationals from Af

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

INDIA is weighing options to bring its nationals and officials back from troubled Afghanistan amid the worsening security situation there.

The Taliban has already overrun a vast swathe of territory in the north without firing a bullet as scared Afghan soldiers fled to neighbouring Tajikistan, forcing countries like Russia and Turkey to close their consulates in the region and call back their diplomats.

Other have reduced their services and are worriedly watching the situation that is bound to deteriorate further before the September 11 deadline for full withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan arrives.

"Plans have been discussed for bringing back our citizens and officials present in different parts of that country and multiple agencies are in discussion for this purpose," sources said. Since the proposal is in the planning stage, it is difficult to say right now if all nationals and officials would be brought back or if it would be partial evacuation.

MATTER TO FIGURE IN TALKS WITH RUSSIA

The Afghan issue will come up for discussion during External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's three-day visit to Russia beginning Wednesday

CONTINUED ON: P11

EXPRESS READ

GST revenue collection slips below ₹1L crore

NEW DELHI: The Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection slipped below ₹1 lakh crore in June for the first time in eight months as the second wave and lockdowns hit the economy. At ₹92,849 crore, the Goods and Services Tax collection is the lowest in 10 months since August 2020, when it was ₹86,449 crore, official numbers released by the government on Tuesday showed.

Punish those who framed Stan Swamy: Opposition

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

LEADERS of major Opposition parties on Tuesday wrote to President Ram Nath Kovind seeking his intervention in holding accountable those responsible for foisting false cases on tribal rights activist Father Stan Swamy, who passed away under custody the previous day leaving the nation horrified.

CONTINUED ON: P10

OLYMPICS CALLING

THREE ATHLETES FROM KARNATAKA IN AS MANY DISCIPLINES WILL REPRESENT INDIA AT THE UPCOMING TOKYO OLYMPICS THAT BEGINS ON JULY 23. HERE IS A LOOK AT THEM...

TOKYO 2020

SWIMMING — SRIHARI NATARAJ

Became the second Indian swimmer ever to qualify directly for the Olympics. This feat looks even more special when one learns how the 20-year-old breaststroker from Bengaluru did not train in water for almost half of 2020 with pools being shut due to Covid-19 restrictions.

GOLF — ADITI ASHOK

When athletes dream of featuring in the Olympics, at least once in their lifetime, at 23, a Bengaluru is set to become a two-time Olympian. She featured in Rio 2016 as well. Aditi Ashok, who plays in the LPGA and the LET tours, sealed her spot recently.

EQUESTRIAN — FOUAAD MIRZA

After 20 years, India will have a representation in equestrian in the form of Fouaad Mirza, who is also a double 2018 Asian Games medallist. The Bengaluru man, who trains in Germany, has been hoisting the Indian flag high in international events almost single-handedly. He is backed by Embassy International Riding School Bangalore.

Car driven by Savadi's son kills farmer, say witnesses; I wasn't in vehicle: Chidanand

MAHESH N GOUDAR @ Bagalkot

A 58-year-old farmer, who was riding a two-wheeler, was killed after a car allegedly driven by Deputy Chief Minister Laxman Savadi's eldest son crashed into him late on Monday evening.

The farmer, Kudaleppa Boli from Chikkahandargal village of Bagalkot taluk, is survived by his wife, three daughters and two sons.

Sources said that Laxman Savadi's son Chidanand Savadi and 11 others were returning to Athani through Vijayapura in two cars when the accident occurred near Kudalasangama Cross close to Hungund town on the National Highway-50. Kudaleppa suffered severe head injuries and was rushed to a private hospital, where he passed away after a couple of hours. A case has been registered at the Hungund police station.

Hanumanth Doddamani, a farmer who was working in his field next to the highway when the accident occurred, said, "I rushed to the spot as soon as I saw the accident. Chidanand was on the driver's seat and four others were inside the car. He tried to escape, but people who had gathered at the spot stopped him. We also deflated all the four tyres of the car to stop them from moving. Instead of helping the injured farmer, Chidanand damaged the number plates of his own car. He also threatened a youngster who was taking the video and photographs and made him delete them. We did not know who he was until he revealed that he was Savadi's son. As we were shifting the injured into an ambulance, Chidanand left the spot in another car." P7

The car that was involved in the accident; Chidanand Savadi (inset) | EXPRESS